

## Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BISSAU PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 140011

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, PU

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS - GUINEA-BISSAU ACTION PLAN  
REFS.: (A) BISSAU 0066; (B) MCGUIRE-CURRAN OI OF 5/17  
1. THE GEOGRAPHIC BUREAUS HAVE BEEN TASKED TO PREPARE HUMAN RIGHTS EVALUATION REPORTS INCLUDING AN ASSESSMENT OF THE CURRENT CONDITION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN EACH COUNTRY AND THE PROPOSED OBJECTIVES AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVING THOSE CONDITIONS. GUIDELINES AND FORMAT INCLUDED IN REF B. SLUG CABLE FOR AF DISTRIBUTION ONLY.

2. THIS CABLE TRANSMITS THE DESKS DRAFT REPORT FOR YOUR COMMENTS. YOUR RESPONSE IS REQUESTED BY JUNE 27 SO THAT THAT BUREAU CAN MEET THE SUBMISSION DATE OF JULY 1.

3. THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE COUNTRY EVALUATION WILL BE CLASSIFIED IN ACCORDANCE WITH EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652.

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REPORTS WILL BE USED AS SOURCE MATERIAL FOR THE PREPARATION OF ANNUAL HUMAN RIGHTS REPORTS ON ALL COUNTRIES WHICH ARE RECIPIENTS OF US SECURITY ASSISTANCE, AND WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT'S HUMAN RIGHTS COORDINATING COMMITTEE, CHAIRED BY THE DEPUTY SECRETARY.

4.A. CONDITION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN GUINEA-BISSAU

GUINEA-BISSAU IS A SINGLE PARTY STATE WHOSE CONSTITUTION GUARANTEES FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS. HOWEVER, THE CONSTITUTION ALSO CONTAINS A PROVISION WHICH CAN BE USED TO DENY RIGHTS AND LIBERTIES TO THOSE WHO QUOTE ENCOURAGE COLONIALISM, IMPERIALISM, RACISM, OR TRIBALISM UNQUOTE. THE CURRENT REGIME IN GUINEA-BISSAU FOUGHT A 13 YEAR WAR WITH PORTUGAL TO GAIN INDEPENDENCE, AND A NUMBER OF THOSE DETAINED IN THE PERIOD FOLLOWING INDEPENDENCE (SEPT. 1974) WERE IN THE EMPLOY OF THE COLONIAL REGIME. IN RECENT MONTHS THE GOGB HAS GRANTED AMNESTY TO A NUMBER OF POLITICAL PRISONERS AND REDUCED THE SENTENCES OF OTHERS. WHILE THE CURRENT NUMBER OF POLITICAL PRISONERS IS NOT KNOWN, IT IS NOT THOUGHT TO BE LARGE.

(1) THE INTEGRITY OF THE PERSON IS GENERALLY RESPECTED AND FREEDOM FROM TORTURE, CRUEL, INHUMAN OR DEGRADING PUNISHMENT, ARBITRARY ARREST OR IMPRISONMENT, DENIAL OF FAIR PUBLIC TRIAL, AND INVASION OF THE HOME IS GENERALLY OBSERVED. --

(2) CIVIL LIBERTIES SUCH AS FREEDOM OF THOUGHT, RELIGION, ASSEMBLY; FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT WITHIN THE COUNTRY; AND LIBERAL FOREIGN TRAVEL AND EMIGRATION POLICIES, ARE RESPECTED. IN DECEMBER 1976 LOCAL REFERENDUMS ON SINGLE SLATES PROPOSED BY THE RULING PARTY WERE HELD TO ELECT REPRESENTATIVES WHO WOULD THEN CHOOSE THE DEPUTIES FOR THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. IN DISTRICTS WHERE THE SLATES

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WERE REJECTED BY THE VOTERS, NEW SLATES WERE PROPOSED AND APPROVED. GUINEA-BISSAU'S CONSTITUTION HOLDS THAT THE PEOPLES' PARTICIPATION IN SUCH LOCAL PROCESSES IS THEIR INPUT IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS.

(3) THE GUINEA-BISSAU GOVERNMENT HAS INSTITUTED DEVELOPMENT PLANS TO DECENTRALIZE AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL A NUMBER OF ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL PROGRAMS. THIS DECENTRALIZATION OF A PLANNED AND CENTRALIZED ECONOMY IS GEARED TO PROMOTE RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND FULFILL BASIC NEEDS FOR FOOD, SHELTER, HEALTH CARE, AND EDUCATION. THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE RURAL POOR HAVE ALWAYS BEEN A PRIME CONCERN OF THE GOGB. THERE ARE NO INDICATIONS OF CORRUPTION.

(4) THE ORIGIN OF THE GOGB AS A CLANDESTINE STATE OPERATING AS AN ARMY OF LIBERATION WHOSE PRINCIPAL GOAL WAS EXPULSION OF THE PORTUGUESE STILL HAVE AN IMPORTANT RESIDUAL EFFECT IN SOMETIMES OVERZEALOUS ACTIONS BY THE STATE SECURITY APPARATUS IN THE PURSUIT OF NATIONAL UNITY. GOGB STILL FEARS

THE DESIGNS OF ITS NEIGHBORS GUINEA-CONAKRY AND SENEGAL,  
AND IS CONCERNED ABOUT SMALL AND DISORGANIZED GROUPS

OPPOSED TO THE CURRENT REGIME WHICH HAVE OFFICES IN SENEGAL  
AND EUROPE. AS THESE PERCEIVED THREATS TO STATE SECURITY  
DECREASE, AS THEY APPEAR TO BE DOING, RESPECT FOR HUMAN  
RIGHTS OUTLINED IN CONSTITUTION SHOULD INCREASE AND  
GUINEA-BISSAU'S FAIRLY GOOD HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD SHOULD  
IMPROVE.

(5) WE ARE UNAWARE OF ANY CLAIMS OF ALLEGED HUMAN RIGHTS  
VIOLATIONS IN GUINEA-BISSAU. IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT OUTSIDE  
INVESTIGATION OF ANY SUCH CLAIMS WOULD BE ACCEPTED.

#### 5.B. ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

(1) OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS:  
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A) NEXT THREE MONTHS - DISCUSS USG COMMITMENT TO HUMAN  
RIGHTS AND SPEECHES BY PRESIDENT AND SECSTATE WITH AP-  
PRIORITATE GOGB OFFICIALS. STRESS IMPORTANCE HUMAN RIGHTS  
FACTORS PLAY IN FOREIGN POLICY DECISION MAKING AND POSSIBLE  
ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES FOR BILATERAL RELATIONS AND ECONOMIC  
ASSISTANCE IF HUMAN RIGHTS DETERIORATE IN GUINEA-BISSAU.

B) NEXT SIX MONTHS - OUR SMALL AID PROGRAM FOR GUINEA-  
BISSAU MAY BE INCREASED BY PROGRAMS IN AGRICULTURE AND  
EDUCATION. IN ADDITION, IF WE DECIDE TO RESPOND TO THE  
GOGB'S REQUEST FOR A PL480 TITLE II SECTION 206 PROGRAM,  
WE SHOULD CONSULT WITH THE GOGB AS TO PROVISIONS FOR LOCAL  
PARTICIPATION IN DECISION MAKING WITH REGARD TO DEVELOPMENT  
PROJECTS FUNDED BY THE SALE OF SECTION 206 COMMODITIES.  
USG FOOD AID SHOULD BE OFFERED WITH THE UNDERSTANDING  
THAT IT IS INTENDED FOR GUINEA-BISSAU'S POOR MAJORITY  
AND THE AVAILABILITY OF SUCH FOOD AID IS SUBJECT TO REVIEW  
IN LIGHT OF GOGB HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES.

C) NEXT YEAR - TO ENCOURAGE INCREASED ECONOMIC AND MORE  
OPEN POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT IN GUINEA-BISSAU WE SHOULD  
EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE PRIVATE CAPITAL AND GREATER  
OPPORTUNITIES FOR POLITICAL EXPRESSION CAN PLAY IN IM-  
PROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR CITIZENS OF GUINEA-BISSAU.

2) WE WOULD EXPECT THAT REACTION TO US HUMAN RIGHTS POLICIES  
AND EMBASSY ACTIONS OUTLINED ABOVE WOULD BE UNIFORMLY  
FAVORABLE.

(3) WE WOULD NOT EXPECT ANY NEGATIVE CHANGES IN HUMAN

RIGHTS AS A RESULT OF THE ABOVE ACTIONS, AND SOME IMPROVEMENTS IN GUINEA-BISSAU'S HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION COULD RESULT.

(4) A) AT PRESENT, WE DO NOT BELIEVE GUINEA-BISSAU'S  
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HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD JUSTIFIES ANY PUNITIVE USG ACTIONS.

(B) GUINEA-BISSAU WOULD BE LIKELY TO SUPPORT US EFFORTS TO PROMOTE HUMAN RIGHTS THROUGH GOVERNMENTAL AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS WHEN SUCH EFFORTS HAVE THE SUPPORT OF SUCH GROUPS AS THE OAU, G-77, NAC, ETC. CHRISTOPHER

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